

Message Text

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71

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER:SM

APPROVED BY S/PRS - JOHN H. TRATTNER

S/S -- JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 037928 TOSEC 040024

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING TUESDAY, FEB. 17

NO. 2

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
FROM PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING:

(1) WEST EUROPEAN RECOGNITION OF MPLA: WILL THE U.S. RE-
COGNIZE FACTION THAT SEEMS TO CONTROL MOST OF ANGOLA? --
WE DO NOT THINK IT IS ESTABLISHED YET THAT ONE FACTION IN
ANGOLA HAS CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY. IN ANY CASE, WOULD
LIKE TO REMIND THAT OUR POSITION HAS BEEN NOT SO MUCH A
QUARREL WITH THE MPLA PER SE BUT WITH THE CUBANS WHO ARE
ENGAGED IN ARMED INTERVENTION SUPPORTED BY SOVIET MILITARY
EQUIPMENT. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER WE ARE CONSIDER-
ING OR WHETHER WE ARE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE MPLA WHILE
CUBAN FORCES SUPPORTED BY SOVIET ARMS ARE STILL FIGHTING
THERE.

(2) DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM MPLA REPORTEDLY
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CONVEYED TO SECRETARY BY AIDE OF SENATOR TUNNEY -- SECRE-

TARY HAS NOT SEEN TUNNEY OR AIDE. THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT A TUNNEY MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, AND SOMETHING MAY BE ARRANGED AFTER HIS RETURN. THE MEETING COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED BEFORE NOW.

(3) RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OR INQUIRY REGARDING RADIO-ACTIVITY EFFECTS AT MOSCOW EMBASSY -- IN OUR CURRENT INVESTIGATION WE HAVE NOT FOUND ANY CORRELATION, STATISTICAL OR OTHERWISE, TO SUGGEST THAT THE INCIDENTS OF SERIOUS ILLNESS, AMONG PERSONS IN THE MOSCOW EMBASSY OR WHO HAVE SERVED THERE, IS ANY GREATER THAN AMONG THE AMERICAN POPULATION GENERALL?. OBVIOUSLY THERE MAY BE INDIVIDUAL INSTANCES OF PEOPLE BEING ILL. PEOPLE HAVE HEALTH PROBLEMS EVERYWHERE.

(4) AMBASSADOR STOESSEL'S HEALTH -- THIS IS A PERSONAL MATTER WHICH WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS HERE.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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